

Two bridges, no approach roads

Locals question planning, use of public funds



SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

Tk 2,26,75,114.

The work order was awarded to Messrs ABM Faisal Construction. One bridge has already been constructed, while work on the other is still underway.

Locals said the entire area becomes submerged during monsoon, with boats as the only mode of transport. In dry season, people walk along narrow ridges between crop fields. They argued that constructing access road should have been prioritised before constructing the bridges.

Locals further alleged that reaching the bridges requires crossing two rivers by boat, making the structures largely inaccessible.

Contractor Md Mokbul Hossain

said the work was being carried out under supervision of Md Ariful Islam, sub-assistant engineer at the upazila Project Implementation Office.

Contacted, Ariful Islam declined to comment on the matter, saying, "The works are under the supervision of senior officials. I cannot say anything about this."

Sarishabari upazila project implementation officer Md Shawkat Jamil said, "The project is being implemented as approved. We are only overseeing the work. If any complaint regarding construction quality is received, action will be taken in accordance with government rules."

Strengthen cyber

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the National Cyber Security Council, issued the directives while presiding over a meeting of the council at the state guest house Jamuna, according to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

Noting that the government is moving to bring a wide range of citizen services onto online platforms, he said many services are already being provided digitally both at home and abroad.

He said organisations, including cyber security agencies, must regularly update their software and hardware as part of adopting cyber security measures. "In addition, the manpower associated with these systems will also have to be made more efficient," he added.

Chief Adviser's special assistant for the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, informed the meeting that 35 institutions have already been enlisted as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) and suggested that more institutions be added to

the list.

He stressed the need for coordination between the National Cyber Security Agency and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to prevent rumours, misinformation and other cybercrimes centring on the upcoming elections.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur said several measures have already been taken to further strengthen cyber security in the banking sector, with additional initiatives currently under way.

Member Secretary of the National Cyber Security Council and Director General of the National Cyber Security Agency Dr Md Taibur Rahman, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul, ICT Division Secretary Shish Haider Chowdhury, Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam and National Board of Revenue Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan, among others, were present at the meeting.

Teachers condemn

Jahangirnagar University to vandalise Udichi and Chhaynaut.

The statement alleged that student representatives from Rucusu and Jucusu, along with Shibir leaders, were involved in incitement and attacks linked to the December 18 arson.

The pattern of violence shows that these were not isolated incidents but "planned and interconnected events", many of which were promoted earlier through YouTube channels and other media, it said.

"The home ministry has shown extreme failure, and law enforcement agencies remained passive despite clear warnings," the statement added.

Referring to commitments made by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus after the July uprising, the teachers said the interim government had promised media freedom, freedom of expression, and protection of lives and property, but failed to uphold those commitments.

They welcomed the arrest of several suspects in the December 18 arson and the Dipu killing and demanded the immediate arrest of Hadi's killers.

The teachers said such statements created fear on campus and encouraged hate speech through Rucusu and Islami Chhatri Shibir-linked social media platforms.

"We are shocked that the university administration took no action against these behaviours, even though many of them amount to criminal offences. This is a direct attack on academic freedom, and its impact has spread to campuses across the country," the statement said.

It also referred to threats made after Hadi's death to shut down The Daily Star and Prothom Alo and calls made by a Shibir leader at

Plans afoot

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a religion of peace, he said BNP wants to build a new Bangladesh through a peaceful election.

Calling for an independent administrative structure for children's affairs, she said responsibilities related to children were currently divided among three ministries without effective coordination.

Sachetan Sangstha General Secretary Sakila Parveen chaired the programme. MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam described the current situation as "extremely alarming".

Julia Jesmin, joint inspector general of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments; Ratan Kumar Halder, additional director of the Department of Social Services; Sharif Jamil, coordinator of Waterkeepers Bangladesh; and Halima Begum, programme officer at the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, also spoke, among others.

She called for an immediate end to the use of children in political activities, particularly ahead of the national election.

She also said children's issues were largely neglected during the interim government period and that vulnerable groups, including street children, child labourers and children

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Children's safety

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child welfare and that 66 percent of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' budget was allocated to social safety net programmes.

She also said steps were under way to establish a separate child affairs directorate, which had reached its final stage.

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